Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00054 151155Z ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 SAJ-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /081 W -------151237Z 055467 /23-12

O 151030Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5407

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINCLANT NORFOLD VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

CONFIDENTIAL MAPUTO 0054

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MZ, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. NOTICIAS JAN 15 REPORTED THAT A SOVIET NAVAL UNIT, INCLUDING THE DESTROYER "ODARENNI" AND A PETROLEUM VESSEL, WILL MAKE AN "OFFICIAL VISIT OF FRIENDSHIP" TO MAPUTO IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS MONTH. A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IN MAPUTO DISCLOSED THAT THE VISIT IS AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, THE VISIT IS CONSISTENT WITH "THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, SOLIDARITY, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE" THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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END UNCLAS.

- 2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE EMBASSY, THIS IS THE FIRST SOVIET NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE SINCE INDEPENDENCE. IT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE THE LAST.
- 3. IN THE LAST MONTH, AS FIGHTING ALONG THE BORDER HAS ES-

CALATED AND AS FRELIMO HAS PREPARED FOR ITS THIRD PARTY CONGRESS, THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY HAVE BEEN DRAWING PUBLICLY CLOSER TO THEIR COMMUNIST ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION. THIS IS MOST APPARENT IN THE FRELIMO LEADERSHIP'S CALLS FOR THE ADOPTION AT THE UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC-SOCIALISM AND MARXISM-LENISM AS THE OFFICIAL IDEOLOGY OF THE PARTY.

4. THE TIMING OF THE SHIP VISIT MAY NOT BE COINCIDENTAL. THE GPRM AND PARTY HAVE BEEN JITTERY OF LATE, AS IF FEARING ACTS OF SUBVERSION OR DISSIDENCE. JUST TODAY THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ENTRY INTO MOZAMBIQUE FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS IS BEING RESTRICTED "IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE ENEMIES FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS OCCASION (THE PARTY CONGRESS) TO SPREAD RUMORS AND LIES ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT". SECURITY IN MAPUTO AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WAS ALSO TIGHTENED OVER THE HOLIDAYS IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE TROUBLE. THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET SHIPS MAY BE INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE ANY WOULD-BE TROUBLE-MAKERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, POLITICAL STABILITY, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS, TRAVEL CONTROLS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 15-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO00054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770016-0264

Format: TEL From: MAPUTO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770148/aaaabqaz.tel

Line Count: 82 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbe8f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3588653 Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE Subject: SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MZ, UR

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbe8f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009